

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Werner HONEGGER

Serial No.: *to be assigned* Examiner: *to be assigned*

Filed: 12 September 2003 Art Unit: *to be assigned*

For: A METHOD AND A DEVICE FOR PROCESSING AND SEPARATING AN IMBRICATE FORMATION OF FLEXIBLE, FLAT OBJECTS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**Mail Stop Patent Application**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O.Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, and §§1.97 and 1.98 as amended, Applicant cites and provides copies of the following art references:

1. U.S. Patent No. 3,881,718 to Fernandez-Rana *et al.*, entitled *UNSTACKING AND SHINGLING OF SHEET MATERIAL ARTICLES*, issued on May 6, 1975;
2. U.S. Patent No. 4,180,259 to Bewersdorf *et al.*, entitled *VARYING THE DROP OF SHEETS INTO A HOPPER*, issued on December 25, 1979;
3. European Patent Publication No. 1 057 763 A2, entitled *METHOD AND DEVICE FOR STACKING THIN OBJECTS*, published on 6 December 2000;
4. European Patent Publication No. 0675061 B1 to Honegger *et al.*, entitled *DEVICE FOR CONTINUOUSLY FEEDING FLAT ARTICLES TO A DELIVERY POINT*, published on 10 December 1997 (corresponding U.S. Patent No. 5,636,832 issued on June 10, 1997, entitled *APPARATUS FOR FEEDING SHEET-LIKE PRODUCTS*)

*TO A DISCHARGE LOCATION, is attached);*

5. Swiss Patent Publication No. 391743 to Reist, published on 15 May 1965 pertains to an apparatus and method for separating products into predetermined sized packages or bales.
6. Swiss Patent Publication No. 324210 to Müller, published on 15 September 1957 pertains to a feeder machine for the paper industry. The device of this invention is based on a drum which is arranged between a stack of folded printed sheets supported on an oblique plane and a transport belt with saddles. The printed sheets are arranged in such a way that they stand on the fold in the feed region. The drum which is arranged essentially tangentially to the frontmost printed sheet on its periphery comprises a gripper by way of which the respective frontmost printed sheet of the ply is gripped and pulled off at the cut-edge side.
7. German Patent Publication No. 2531262 to Schick, published on 25 January 1977 discloses a feeder for sheets or folded layers of paper or similarly flexible materials. Printed sheets, in the form of an imbricate flow are moved along an oblique plane by way of a conveyor belt. The printed sheets on a further oblique plane are piled up into an obliquely set position and brought to a standstill. The respective lowermost printed sheet of the oblique ply is grasped by way of a wheel equipped with grippers and deflected by way of a deflection roller.
8. European Patent Publication No. 1055620 A1 to Keller *et al.*, published on 29 November 2000 pertains to a device for accommodating and for the further transport of flat, printed products. A multitude of grippers with associated suction members are attached along a revolving wheel. The printed sheets to be processed are arranged on a stack from which they are lifted by way of the suction members and brought into the active region of the grippers. The printed sheets are gripped by the grippers and subsequently deposited in the form of an imbricate flow and conveyed away by way of a conveyor means. This device permits the gripping of printed sheets in very short distances, wherein the suction heads and products are to be aligned to one another.

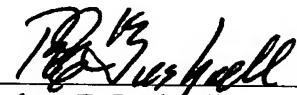
9. European Patent Publication No. 1096914 B1 to Knierbein, entitled *STERILE CONNECTOR FOR CONTAINERS WHICH CONTAIN MEDICINAL LIQUIDS*, published on 9 May 2001 pertains to a device for the transport of flat products from a stationary stack positioned in a receiving location to a dispensing location. The device comprises a separating member, as well as a support element and a holding member which are arranged running around a shaft. The products are gripped individually, separated and transferred to a means which serves for the conveying-away.
10. PCT International Patent Publication No. WO 00/46135 to Leu, entitled *DEVICE FOR UNSTACKING A PILE OF FLAT OBJECTS, ESPECIALLY PRINTING PRODUCTS*, published on 10 August 2000 pertains to a device for reducing a stack of flat objects, in particular, printer's products. By way of a lifting means, the respective uppermost printed sheet is lifted from a stack and brought into the active region of a conveyor belt which serves for leading away the printed sheets in the form of an imbricate flow.
11. European Patent Publication No. 0863099 B1 to Keller, entitled *DEVICE FOR SEPARATING PILED PRINTED PRODUCTS*, published on 9 September 1998.
12. European Patent Publication No. 0755886 B1 to Keller, entitled *DEVICE FOR FEEDING PRINTED PRODUCTS TO A FURTHER WORK STATION*, published on 29 January 1997, pertains to a device for isolating stacked printer's products. The printed sheets to be processed are inserted below a stack by way of a conveying means. From this stack the respective uppermost printed product is gasped by a gripper and led away individually.
13. German Patent Publication No. 19627830 to Eberle, published on 6 February 1997, pertains to a device for feeding folded printer's products to a location for further processing. Printed sheets supplied in an imbricate flow are led to a stacking location by way of a conveying means, where they are inserted below an intermediate stack.

By way of a lifting member moved along a circumferential path (suction member) the respective uppermost printer's product is lifted at the fold edge and brought into the active region of a conveying-away device. The conveying-away device comprises a segmented roller and a circumferential belt which serves for pressing the printed products onto the segmented roller. The printed sheets are lifted one after the other and brought into the active region of the conveying-away device by which they are grasped and led away in the form of an imbricate flow.

The citation of the foregoing references is not intended to constitute an assertion that other or more relevant art does not exist. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to make a wide-ranging and thorough search of the relevant art.

No fee is incurred by this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO-1449 (PAGE 1 OF 1)		P56949	
		APPLICANT	Werner Honegger
		FILING DATE	12 September 2003
		GROUP	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	3,881,718	5/75	Fernandez-Rana et al.			
	4,180,259	12/79	Bewersdorf et al.			
	5,636,832	6/97	Honegger et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					TRANSLATION		
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	YES	NO
	EP1057763 A2	12/00	European Patent Office				
	EP0675061 B1	12/97	European Patent Office				
	CH391743	12/91	Switzerland				
	CH324210	9/57	Switzerland				
	DE2531262 A1	1/77	Germany				
	EP1055620 A1	11/00	European Patent Office				
	EP1096914 B1	5/01	European Patent Office				
	WO 00/46132	8/00	PCT				
	EP0863099 B1	9/98	European Patent Office				
	EP0755886 B1	1/97	European Patent Office				
	DE19627830 A1	2/97	Germany				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)	
EXAMINER:	DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.